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CONFIDENTIAL

December 4, 1962

WASHINGTON EMBASSY REPORTS RE EVENTS IN CUBA

Situation Report for Week Ending December 1: Following departure of Mikoyan and an effective but unofficial demobilization of the militia, the temperature has gone steadily down. The general public is understandably confused and counter revolutionary element disgruntled at "having been let down by Kennedy". Three days of national mourning declared to honor nine Cuban delegates killed in air crash in Peru have added to the impression that life has gone sub-normal after the crisis. The unsensational character of news presentation in the press suggests a lack of directive from a government probably licking its wounds, waiting perhaps for the outcome of Mikoyan's talks in the United States and rethinking its policy. Apart from the presence at the airport for Mikoyan's departure, Castro has not appeared officially in public, has not spoken on television and has given no noticeable sign of leadership. Return to work has taken place quietly and the country is still officially on war footing. The homeguard element of the militia still drilling in Havana streets up till midnight. Military trucks continue to arrive by Russian ships and technicians are still busy going to unidentified places with trucks of sand. In short, everyone in Cuba is a little confused.

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